



# Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman  
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## Bush Extols Virtues of Empowering Parents in Education

Speaking to a group of parents and education advocates from around the country at the White House today, President Bush made the following remarks about giving parents more choices in education:

“We must challenge schools with higher standards and arm parents with better options. I’m asking that every state have a real accountability system, meaning that they test every child, every year, in grades three through eight, on the basics of reading and math.”

“I’m an enthusiastic supporter of charter schools. Charter schools are beginning to change our understanding of public education, no question about it. And the competition charter schools oftentimes provide can serve as an agent to strengthen other schools.”

“[My proposal] gives alternatives for students trapped in persistently dangerous schools. States must report to parents whether or not the schools are safe. And if safety does not improve, students must get the option of attending another public school.”

“[I]f a school receives Title I funding and progress is not being made ... then the federal money attributable to that child should follow the child. And the parent should be able to make a choice of any kind of school that he or she wants to send her child to. I vigorously campaigned on this idea because I think it is right. I don’t believe the federal government should fund persistent failure.”

### Message of the Day

**H.R. 1 empowers parents by giving them the opportunity to remove their children from failing schools, which will enable them to make the right decisions for their children’s education.**

- ❑ *It is unconscionable to force children to remain in schools where they cannot possibly reach their fullest educational potential.*
- ❑ *H.R. 1 empowers parents at the expense of the education bureaucracy.*
- ❑ *How much longer will Washington spend education dollars without insisting on results? Without putting parents in charge?*

### DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- The *No Child Left Behind* bill offers failing schools additional financial assistance to help improve student academic performance.
- A recent report by the nonpartisan Manhattan Institute found that Florida’s school choice plan helped close gaps in student achievement.
- According to a bipartisan poll conducted for the National Education Association in February, 63 percent of Americans say they support President Bush’s approach to school choice.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

“[A]s debate proceeds over President Bush’s education proposals, know this: Testing, accountability, and choice are powerful tools to improve education -- and, in particular, to turn around chronically failing schools.” **Jay P. Greene, Ph.D., senior fellow, Manhattan Institute, *New York Post*, February 21, 2001**